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SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORT

TRIAL OF THE "CHICAGO 7" (Continued)

During the eighth week of the trial of the now "Chicago 7" (12-18 November), the Communist press has continued its bombardment demanding that Bobby Seale, no longer one of the "conspirators" on trial, be freed; that the trial of the "Chicago 7" be called off and the indictments against them dismissed; and that Judge Julius J. Hoffman be impeached. It has protested the "Fascist-like actions" of Judge Hoffman in his treatment of Seale, who "from the opening day of the trial has been the special target of racist hostility and bestial repression." "Fascist" is a word currently much in use by the Communist and underground press. People's World refers to the Judge in such terms as "the mad Judge Hoffman", while the Quicksilver Times has called him "the vain, wisened, prancing judge (who) was the criminal and not the Black Revolutionary (Seale)."

As reported in People's World, "The Communist Party calls upon all progressives—all people who cherish democracy and peace—to speak out. Bombard the Justice Department, U.S. Attorney General Mitchell, to put an end to this mockery of a trial signaled in the shameful antics of the presiding judge... Demand that the Justice Department intervene now to dismiss the entire indictment against the 'Chicago 8'... Demand that immediate steps be taken for the impeachment of Judge Hoffman..."

Seale's wife, Artie, has spoken at Black Panther national headquarters of his treatment in court where, according to her, he was so tightly bound and gagged that he "passed out before he reached the courtroom" and, even after rearrangement of his "bandages", "could hardly breathe. He was choking to death and he was dizzy and he almost passed out in the courtroom, so they had to stop the court and beg Judge Hoffman to please cut him loose." His mother, Thelma Seale, and Panther Attorney

Charles R. Garry spoke to a packed congregation in the Glide Memorial Church whose minister, Reverend Cecil Williams, is the head of Citizens United for Political Prisoners, which "plans to send out thousands of letters asking for financial or moral support for Seale and others."

A 15 November article in the Guardian, which appears to be one of a series of articles by Tom Hayden on the "Chicago 8" trial, referred to the Government's case against The Conspiracy as having "staggered to its end last week"; and noted that "our defense will soon open in the courtroom." According to Hayden, the Government has failed to create "even the semblance of a trial much less a convincing argument that the eight defendants conspired to start a riot at the Democratic Convention last year." The theme of the defense, he said, will be that "we have a right to act with a revolutionary spirit. The first amendment was intended to protect the spirit and we view the actions in Chicago as part of the beginning of a new American revolution... to abolish racism and class exploitation and to create a free society." Demonstrations like those on 15 November, he said, "are perhaps our best defense. The indictments against us clearly have failed in their intention to stop people from moving to take the country away from the ruling class."

According to Hayden, the Government's handling of the trial, and particularly of Lobby Seale, "has virtually destroyed the ritualized sanctity of the judicial system in this country for countless people." Seale's conduct, he said, "was in the classic Panther tradition"; and both Seale and Huey P. Newton, Panther leaders, "were jailed because they had taken exemplary direct action to articulate the demand of the black colony for self-determination." He quoted Seale as telling the other conspiracy defendants, during one of their last meetings, of the need for unity among all organizations in demanding the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, the ending of racism, and the freeing of all political prisoners. He stressed that "law and order" is merely the "domestic policy of imperialism."

According to Hayden, the judiciary is unable to deal with confrontation politics and disruption in the courtroom and "The movement is heading into a showdown with law and order."

The Daily World has been sponsoring a petition addressed to the Attorney General of the United States "For Justice in the Chicago Conspiracy Case", (a copy of which has been run in that publication), in which they "urge" him "to go into court and move for the dismissal of the indictments against the eight defendants and for vacating the contempt sentences against Seale."

Not only has the Communist press given great play to the "Chicago 8" (Chicago 7) trial and particularly to Bobby Seale, the underground press has done the same. The 13 November 1969 issue of the Quicksilver Times, for example, contains several articles in this connection as well as a large cartoon; and the "early November 1969" issue of the Washington Free Press contains a full-page ad on the conspiracy demanding in large headlines:

"STOP THE TRIAL!
LEAVE THE PASTILLE
FREE EVERYBODY
BREAK BOBBY'S SHACKLES", Etc.

It also contains a double-page ad which shows in the background a dictionary-like definition of the word "fascism" with a superimposed picture of the by now familiar artist's sketch of Seale bound and gagged in court.

Quicksilver Times, in a report on statements made by Abbie Hoffman when he was speaking at the American University regarding the then upcoming picket line demonstration to be held at the Justice Department on 15 November in behalf of the "Chicago 8", quoted him as saying that its significance was to link in people's minds the war overseas with political repression at home—both of which, according to Hoffman, are created by "our country's system." "Vietnamis just don't happen, they are a natural outgrowth of this system, capitalism." (It was at this Yippie-sponsored demonstration at the Justice Department, in the planning of which defendants Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin played leading parts, that the worst of the riotous disorders of the entire Moratorium took place. The march to the Justice Department, which was led by radical Yippies chanting: "Free Bobby Seale", "Stop the trial", "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh—NLF is gonna win", turned into a confrontation with police when the mob began pounding on the doors of the Justice Department, lowering the building's American flag and replacing it with a Vietcong flag, hurling bottles, and smashing windows.)

Activities within the courtroom of the "Chicago 7" trial during the past week appear to have been chiefly concerned with the testimony and cross-examination of Irwin Lock, undercover Chicago policeman, and with motions by the defense for a mistrial.

Lock, who testified that he infiltrated the leadership of various Chicago and national antiwar groups and in that way learned that the seven defendants urged violent actions during last year's Democratic National Convention, under cross-examination said that an affidavit signed by him on 30 June for the defense was untrue. The affidavit which absolved the defense of suggesting "any criminal activity", or of doing "anything of a criminal nature", was signed by Lock, he said, on the advice of his superiors and in order to maintain his cover and protect his identity as a policeman. Defense attorneys tried to show that the statement was an affidavit and Lock a perjurer; but Lock testified that the statement was not sworn and not notarized. The statement contradicts information furnished in his testimony, which cited "more than 20 speeches and conversations" he had heard involving the defendants.

The defense was reported on Monday, 17 November, to be prepared "today" to argue for a mistrial on grounds that Lock lied in giving a pre-trial statement to defense attorneys. On the same date, defense attorneys argued that a mistrial should be declared because of police infiltration and spying into the affairs of the defendants. Judge Hoffman, however, denied the motion, ruling that the charges were "unsubstantiated." The defense, he said, had not proved that the Government is opening mail addressed to the attorneys for the "Chicago 7." He noted that his chamber "has virtually become a post office for the defendants" and advised the defense to have its mail addressed to its own offices.

On 19 November, Defense Lawyer William A. Kunstler introduced another motion for a mistrial based on his allegations that Judge Hoffman has made it apparent that he bears "animus" against the defense team. This, he said, has been clear throughout the trial and culminated in two incidents "yesterday": when he warned Kunstler not to lean against the lectern designed by Chicago's renowned architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; and rebuked Leonard I. Berglas for speaking "offensively" to one of the prosecutors when accusing him of testifying rather than raising an objection. (Kunstler, no doubt,

was also aggravated by the fact that on Friday, 11 November, Judge Hoffman refused to dismiss court at 4:30 p. m., as asked by Kunstler who indicated that he wished to go "to protest in Washington", and kept the court in session for twenty-three minutes past its normal adjournment time. Kunstler claimed that "the bench has so prejudiced this case the jury could no longer possibly render an impartial verdict." He accused the Judge of having indicated "in front of the jury that there is something very wrong with the defense attorneys" and of having "as much as said we are going to jail at the end of the case." Judge Hoffman, who rejected Kunstler's motion for a mistrial, replied, "Those are your words, not mine, I never threaten. I give admonitions. I cannot sit here and see conduct I consider contemptuous and say nothing."

Another clash took place at the end of the day, between the defense attorneys and Judge Hoffman, when the latter sternly admonished Kunstler for shouting in court and defendant David Dellinger for standing up and speaking out. Mr. Weinglass asked the Judge to also admonish Asst. U. S. Attorney Richard Schultz for calling the defense attorneys "unhinged"; but Judge Hoffman said he didn't think Mr. Foren or Mr. Schultz had "said anything that needs to be disciplined." Kunstler remarked that the jury must conclude that the defense is "pretty horrible", and the Judge again replied, "Those are your words, not mine." To Kunstler's comment, "How could they think otherwise?", Judge Hoffman said with a smile, "I don't know."

Meanwhile, a third Vietnam moratorium has been announced for 12/13 December and 24 December, Christmas Eve. There has been no reference as yet to any tie to the "Chicago 8"--but it seems doubtful that the "Chicago 7", several of whom were leaders of the disruptive elements of the November 15 Moratorium/Mobilization demonstrations, will fail to again capitalize on an opportunity to tie their trial to the anti-Vietnam war movement.

CALENDAR OF TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Asterisked items are either reported for the first time or contain additions or changes to previously reported activities.

November 21-24, Chicago, Illinois

The New Democratic Coalition steering committee announced a national conference will be held at which Sen. Harold Hughes (D-Iowa) will be the principal speaker.

*November 22, New Haven and Niantic, Connecticut

The BPP is planning a demonstration in support of the fourteen BPP members who are awaiting trial for the murder of a member of the BPP. The Black Stone Rangers, a Hartford, Connecticut, Negro youth gang, is reportedly in close contact with the BPP.

Also on the 22nd at New Haven, Women's Liberation activists from throughout the East will converge on the state courthouse to demand that the five BPP women currently in jail on the murder charges be freed. Men have also been urged to join this demonstration. Women are expected to come from New York, Baltimore, New Jersey, Washington, D. C., Boston, Philadelphia, and as far away as Chicago.

*November 23, Columbia, South Carolina

A march by dissident military personnel and Student Mobilization Committee members at University of South Carolina, Columbia, reportedly was rescheduled for this alternate date. Marchers are to attempt to gain entrance to Fort Jackson during the afternoon or early evening.

*November 23, San Juan, Puerto Rico

March against compulsory military service from Santurce to San Juan will end with public rally at Colon Plaza. Activities sponsored by Independence Party of Puerto Rico, Communist Party of Puerto Rico, Movement for the Independence of Puerto Rico youth, Federation of University Students, Authentic Sovereignty.

*November 26-27, Plymouth, Massachusetts and Washington, D. C.

The Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, a very active anti-war group, has issued a statement announcing it will sponsor a Thanksgiving fast at Plymouth Rock and also on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, D. C., on the 26th of November and lasting into Thanksgiving Day, the 27th. *PHI 11/27/69*

November 27 (Thanksgiving) Atlanta, Georgia

National RYM-2 (SDS) Women's Conference at Emory University. *6/20/69 11/15/69*

*November 28-30, Atlanta, Georgia

RYM-2 (SDS) National Conference at Emory University. *6/20/69 11/15/69*

November 28-30, Mississippi or Georgia

The National Conference on Black Power had a three-conference schedule for 1969 - the first in July in Bermuda - the second 29-31 August in Los Angeles, and the third - "to synthesize the results of the previous two" will be in Mississippi or Georgia during the Thanksgiving weekend (November 27). It will be international in scope - including black peoples from North America, the Caribbean, Africa, and South America. *6/20/69 11/15/69*

November 29, New York City

All day conference: "Agencies of Social Change - Toward a Revolutionary Strategy for Advanced Industrialist Countries." Sponsored by the Socialist Scholars Conference and the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation of America, Inc. *6/20/69 11/15/69*

SOURCE: Government and news media

RELIABILITY: Probably true